

The SDCEA, in support of the residents of Assegai, Hime Street and Major Calvert Road demand the following:

1. Hosaf Fibres needs to move away from coal to gas as promised. A detailed plan needs to be advertised as to the progress of this change.
2. Hosaf Fibres needs to monitor, characterize and publicise all chemicals released over their fence line.
3. Hosaf Fibres must appoint independent specialist to take air quality samples to verify that their emission are not affecting their fence line neighbours.
4. Independently of any air samples taken HOSAF must accept the SDCEA bucket samples as indicators of the chemicals released onto the residential homes.
5. Hosaf Fibres need to produce all Records of Decision issued by the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs related to expansions and changes at the plant over the last 36 months. As a community group who has misgivings about the legality of your development, we have acquired a team to analyze and assess these documents.
6. Hosaf Fibres must invite community groups to visit and inspect the Hosaf plant site.
7. Hosaf Fibres needs to provide statistics on its employment quotas with regard to race, gender and region.
8. Hosaf Fibres needs to detail their emission of CS₂ as a byproduct chemical.
9. Hosaf Fibres needs to provide a Safety Report related to the onsite storage of Kerosene.
10. Hosaf Fibres needs to detail all projects and activities that it engages to better and assist the neighbouring communities. These activities should be based on greatest needs.
11. Hosaf fibres needs to provide an updated report on the status, servicing and age of their scrubbers.
12. Hosaf Fibres needs to indicate all proposed projects to implement Best Available Technology as well as convert to using renewable energy and lessening their severe contribution to the poor health of people, the squandering of quality of life and the destruction of a clean environment.
13. Hosaf Fibres needs to engage the neighbouring community and school and provide them with an emissions inventory.
14. Hosaf Fibres needs to account for the extreme pungency experienced by the people of Hime Street and Major Calvert Road in the early hours of the morning whilst billows of smoke are released.
15. Hosaf Fibres needs to detail how they intend to adapt to the ever growing issue of climate change and global warming in regard to their practices as well as the worrying nature of the products they produce.
16. SDCEA demands that Hosaf Fibres acknowledge their contribution to the levels of asthma in the area and make provision for a 24 hours free mobile Asthma clinic.
17. Hosaf Fibres needs to stop undermining the law of the country by not doing EIA's as promulgated by the parliament of the country.
18. Hosaf Fibres needs to produce a plan of action to reduce pollution immediately and accept the communities right to a clean and health environment.

For further information please contact Office Staff on 031 4611991 or sdcea@mail.ngo.za



HOSAF FAILS THE GOOD NEIGHBOURLY AGREEMENT

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Position Paper No. 3

August 2008

Poverty, a Park and a Polyester Plant

Hosaf Fibres, formally Frame Textiles, has been polluting the south Durban air since 1975. German owned, this multinational corporation continues to cause sleepless nights for the many residents of lower Austerville who live within a few meters from its fence-line. Asthma sufferers have an exceptionally hard time. Children suffer wheezing as they play soccer in the park that runs adjacent to the plant. A vast array of smells come from the plant at various hours of the day. The odours experienced during the sleeping hours are of great concern to the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance who fights to hold industry accountable for destroying the lives of ordinary people.

Hosaf Fibres often gets away with its environmental crimes as it lives in the shadows of other smaller industries in the Jacobs belt as well as Engen and Sapref. It has become increasingly hard for community groups and the City to monitor the air and know exactly who the culprit is. The attitude of Hosaf Fibres however, in neglecting to better their technology or assist the local people who they affect – is indicative of the careless ethic and disregard for the peoples right to an environment that is not harmful to health.

How do you tell children to respect the park? How do you teach them not to do graffiti or litter? How do you teach them not to smoke drugs? How do you increase environmental apathy when on a daily basis a dirty industry pollutes the atmosphere? There is no pride in the neighbouring areas due to the constant stench and the noise pollution created by an industry that does nothing but disturb the quality of life for previously disadvantaged people. Hosaf's presence and poor practices in a predominantly coloured area is a clear example of environmental racism. And Hosaf Fibres does not care – as long as they have high profit margins.

Hosaf Fibres has recently been developing certain parts of its plant without following the EIA route and it is therefore illegal. They are also guilty of nepotism in their employment style, failing to address the needs of local people. As the residents of South Durban, we have made certain demands. If we are not satisfied, we will take action in a court of law against the evil that is squandering our lifestyle. The SDCEA will engage the people in petitions and protests as we call on the polluter to change.



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